

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) Alkali aqueous flocculating agent based on an alkali aqueous salt clay extract with a contents of dissolved silicates and aluminates as well as alkali chloride, whereby for 1 part by weight of aluminate expressed as Al(OH)_3 are provided;
 - 1.) approximately 2 to 3 parts by weight of silicate (expressed as SiO_2) as well as
 - 2.) at least approximately 10 parts by weight, especially at least 20 parts by weight of alkali chloride.
2. (Original) Flocculating agent according to Claim 1, characterized in that the alkali chlorides exist in form of sodium chloride.
3. (Previously presented) Flocculating agent according to Claim 1, characterized in that for 1 part by weight of aluminate are provided at least approximately 30 parts by weight of alkali chloride.
4. (Previously presented) Flocculating agent according to Claim 1, characterized in that the pH-value lies above 9.
5. (Original) Flocculating agent according to Claim 4, characterized in that the pH-value the flocculating agents lies between approximately 12 and 14.
6. (Previously presented) Flocculating agent according to Claim 1, characterized in that it originates from gray salt clay, green salt clay, red salt clay and/or black salt clay.
7. (Original) Flocculating agent according to Claim 6, characterized in that it originates from green salt clay.

8. (Previously presented) Flocculating agent according to Claim 1, characterized in that it involves a clear, colorless and odorless and non-toxic solution.

9. (Original) Solid flocculating and sedimentation agent in form of an acidic and alkali extracted salt clay.

10. (Previously presented) Flocculating- and sedimentation agent according to Claim 9, characterized in that its average particle size is smaller than 50 µm.

11. (Previously presented) Flocculating- and sedimentation agent according to Claim 10, characterized in that the average particle size is smaller than 10 µm, and that 30% of the particles can have a particle size of less than 3 µm.

12. (Previously presented) Flocculating- and sedimentation agent according to Claim 1, characterized in that it originates from gray salt clay, green salt clay, red salt clay and/or black salt clay, especially from green salt clay.

13. (Previously presented) Method for manufacture of an alkali aqueous flocculating agent and/or a flocculating- and/or sedimentation agent, characterized in that a salt clay is initially broken down in an acid medium at increased temperature, the resulting acid suspension is adjusted highly alkaline, the alkaline suspension kept for some time at increased temperature and the alkaline aqueous flocculating agent separated as clear solution from the solid flocculating- and sedimentation agents.

14. (Original) Method according to Claim 13, characterized in that the separation occurs by means of sedimentation.

15. (Original) Method according to Claim 14, characterized in that the solid flocculating and/or sedimentation agent is adjusted to a suspended contents of solid clay substances of approximately 6 - 8% by weight.

16. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 13, characterized in that grey salt clay, green salt clay, red salt clay and/or black salt clay is used as starter material, especially green salt clay.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of water comprising introducing the alkali aqueous flocculating agent according to Claim 1

- 1) in swimming pool facilities alone or in combination with an aluminum and/or iron-containing flocculating agent, dosed in jointly for flocculent filtration,
- 2) in drinking water-, industrial-, gray water- and waste water treatment as specific flocculating and precipitation agent,
- 3) in separation of solid matter in sewage treatment plants as adsorption and sedimentation and filtration adjuvant and
- 4) for reduction of harmful matter and for beautification of water in swimming ponds, ponds and biotopes, whereby application of the flocculating agent occurs especially by means of dosing systems.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of pond water, especially of natural and artificially constructed ponds, biotopes and bodies of water with strong plant growth or increased algae growth high cloudiness, whereby the agent of claim 9 is applied to the respective water surface.

19. (Currently amended) Flocculating agent according to Claim 1, characterized in that for 1 part by weight of aluminate are provided at least approximately 40 to 60 parts by weight of alkali chloride.

20. (Currently amended) Flocculating agent according to Claim 1 ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that the pH-value lies above 11.

21. (Previously presented) Flocculating- and sedimentation agent according to Claim 9, characterized in that its average particle size is smaller than 20 µm.